

course should become the common property of all His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects, rich and poor, sharp and dull. The mofussil colleges should be allowed to train students for the pass course, for the purpose of relieving the congestion in Trivandrum. Mofussil areas should institute scholarships to be subsidised by the Government, so that intelligent and poor students might be enabled to prosecute their studies in the University centre. According to the scheme the Member had in view, no student in the State, wherever he might have been born and whatever his circumstances might be, should suffer from the prohibitive cost of University life, nor should mediocres be compelled to live in Trivandrum at prohibitive cost and cause congestion without proportionate profit. The above was a rough idea of the practical type of University he would propose for the consideration of Government, which in his opinion would also relieve the Government of a good deal of its financial burden, and while giving more scope for private enterprise, would also be denominational in its nature.

The Member finally spoke about the bifurcation of the arts and science courses in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum, and suggested three ways of relieving the tension in the College. One was to divide the institution into two—College of Science and College of Arts—the latter being located in the new building in the Training College. The second was to send the Intermediate students in both arts and sciences to the new buildings at Taikad, the B. A. classes alone being held in the present Arts College buildings. The third suggestion was to open a fresh Intermediate College at Trivandrum or Mavelikara or any other equally important centre. Of those three suggestions the Member recommended the first one as the most feasible and dismissed the other two as being unnecessarily costly and also impracticable on other grounds.

President's reply.—You have yourself said that you have sent up your view regarding the type of University to be established in Travancore to the University Committee in answer to their *questionnaire*. Your suggestions appear to be valuable, and I daresay they will be considered by the University Committee before they send up their report. They will also be considered by the Government when the report reaches them.

127. Technical and religious education.

Mr. A. S. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara) first spoke on the need for religious instruction in schools. He explained what was meant by religion and observed that the system of education obtaining at present, being a Godless system, the children brought in schools were not having that all-round development of the intellect which they would have had, if some arrangements had been made to teach the young something about morality and God. The Member then spoke in detail about the evils which flowed from the present secular system of education. The two-fold difficulty in carrying out the idea of religious instruction was the absence of text books and finance. The first difficulty could be removed by the appointment of a committee of members representing the chief religions and the preparation, by that committee, of a text-book common to the followers of all religions. The Member represented that the general complaint was that the pupils brought up under the present system of education were growing more and more insubordinate, defiant and self-willed, and, as a consequence, it was becoming difficult to maintain discipline in schools. He, therefore, requested that the proposal might be given effect to as early as practicable.

In dealing with the urgent need for technical education the Member considered Form III or Form IV a sufficient standard for general education, and that in the higher forms some form of manual training or industry should be prescribed as a compulsory subject of study. The industries recommended for introduction in schools included weaving, manufacture of matches, soap, candles, etc. The teaching of those industries should be made compulsory in both Vernacular and English schools. Alluding to the Dewan's reference to the waning condition of the Alleppey Commercial School due to a decline in strength, the Member said that, if type-writing and short-hand were introduced in schools, a larger number of young men would find employment and the drain towards Madras in the shape of application fees could be

saved and the amount diverted into the Travancore Treasury. In conclusion, the Member suggested that, as in the Police Training School at Vellore, the teaching of short-hand might be introduced in the Police Department, especially in the C. I. D. branch, and that it might be declared a special qualification for head-constables and Inspectors. He also suggested that the Government might issue a circular to the effect that those having a knowledge of short-hand and type-writing would be preferred for employment in the public service.

President's reply.—You have made suggestions regarding the introduction of religious instruction in schools. You have also alluded to the difficulty in taking the necessary steps in that direction. Your remarks are noted.

As regards technical education, you are probably aware that in 1098 there were 5 departmental industrial schools, 37 aided schools, and 38 unaided schools. There were also 10 departmental technical schools for girls and one unaided school. I may assure you that more schools will be opened as funds permit.

Your suggestion that short-hand and type-writing should be made compulsory in the Police Department is noted.

128. Opening of higher forms in the English Middle School at Nedumangad and the extension of the School building.

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai (Member, Nedumangad taluk) represented that, as a result of the representations made at the Eighteenth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Dewan arranged for a building being placed at the disposal of the people for starting an English school. The school was started in 1096 Edavam with two divisions of the Preparatory class, and Form I was opened in 1097. Since then the difficulty had been in regard to a bigger building for the school and higher forms could not be opened on account of that difficulty. The Director of Public Instruction, when he inspected the school, told the people that Form II could be opened only when the people provided a building, or made, in lieu of it, a contribution of Rs. 1,000. With the greatest difficulty the amount was raised and deposited in the Taluk treasury in 1098 (Edavam). Later, when the Dewan visited the school, the people represented their grievances. He inspected the school site in company with the Tahsildar, and stated that the local town hall, in which the school was then located, could be handed over to the department. He also promised that the sum of Rs. 1,000, already deposited by the people, would be returned in that case.

President's reply.—You said that the Dewan, on his circuit to Ponmudi, visited your place. He has said in his inspection notes that by utilising the town hall and the Travellers' Bungalow, sufficient room may be found for a High School. Without a suitable building, of course, no school can be started. If you unconditionally hand over the town hall, higher classes will be opened gradually.

Member.—We are willing to do that. There is some litigation.

President.—You can compromise the suit and enter into an agreement, in which case, you can take back your security of Rs. 1,000. If you hand over the building, Government will give you the higher forms.

129. Need for a Tamil School at Alleppey.

Mr. P. Rajagopala Reddiar (Member, Municipal Council, Alleppey) began by saying that, according to the latest census, about 16 per cent. of the people of Travancore were Tamilians, and that, therefore, it was the duty of the Government to look to their welfare. In the days of the Chera, the Chola, and the Pandya Kings, Travancore was part of the Chera Kingdom, and that, therefore, it was once primarily a Tamil *nad*. Even after the spread of Malayalam it was not possible to drive away Tamil from the State. Tamil was once the State language, and as there was an awakening among the Tamilians of Travancore, Government were in duty bound to satisfy the needs of the Tamilians of the State. Tamil, which had been subject to great danger for some time in the past, was fortunately saved by the Salvation Army and the other Christian Missions working in South Travancore. He submitted that, if the education of six and a quarter lakhs of the Tamilians of Travancore, was not cared for, it would give rise to great hardship. That there was an increase of 5 per cent. in the number of educated Tamilians was a sign of an awakening among